

(2) provide physical care, emotional support, and education advocacy; and

(3) are the largest single source of families providing permanent homes for children leaving foster care to adoption;

Whereas, compared to children in foster care who are placed with nonrelatives, children in foster care who are placed with relatives have more stability, including fewer changes in placements, have more positive perceptions of their placements, are more likely to be placed with their siblings, and demonstrate fewer behavioral problems;

Whereas some relative caregivers receive less financial assistance and fewer support services than do foster caregivers;

Whereas an increased emphasis on prevention and reunification services is necessary to reduce the number of children that enter or re-enter the foster care system;

Whereas the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has created additional challenges for youth and families in the child welfare system, including delays in permanency, economic hardship, and disruptions in education;

Whereas over 20,000 youth “aged out” of foster care in 2019 without a legal permanent connection to an adult or family;

Whereas children who age out of foster care lack the security or support of a biological or adoptive family and frequently struggle to secure affordable housing, obtain health insurance, pursue higher education, and acquire adequate employment;

Whereas foster care is intended to be a temporary placement, but children remain in the foster care system for an average of 19 months;

Whereas, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, 35 percent of children in foster care experience more than 2 placements while in foster care, which often leads to disruption of routines and the need to change schools and move away from siblings, extended families, and familiar surroundings;

Whereas youth in foster care are much more likely to face educational instability, with 1 study showing that 75 percent of foster youth experienced an unscheduled school change during a school year, compared to 21 percent of youth not in foster care;

Whereas children entering foster care often confront the widespread misperception that children in foster care are disruptive, unruly, and dangerous, even though placement in foster care is based on the actions of a parent or guardian, not the child;

Whereas 30 percent of children in foster care are taking at least 1 anti-psychotic medication, and 34 percent of those children are not receiving adequate treatment planning or medication monitoring;

Whereas, according to a 2018 study, due to heavy caseloads and limited resources, the average annual turnover rate for child welfare workers is between 14 percent and 22 percent;

Whereas States, localities, and communities should be encouraged to invest resources in preventative and reunification services and postpermanency programs to ensure that more children in foster care are provided with safe, loving, and permanent placements;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress passed the Family First Prevention Services Act (Public Law 115-123; 132 Stat. 232), which provided new investments in prevention and family reunification services to help more families stay together and ensure that more children are in safe, loving, and permanent homes;

Whereas Federal legislation over the 3 decades preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, including the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272; 94 Stat. 500), the Adoption and

Safe Families Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-89; 111 Stat. 2115), the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-351; 122 Stat. 3949), the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act (Public Law 112-34; 125 Stat. 369), and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Public Law 113-183; 128 Stat. 1919), provided new investments and services to improve the outcomes of children in the foster care system;

Whereas May 2021 is an appropriate month to designate as National Foster Care Month to provide an opportunity to acknowledge the accomplishments of the child welfare workforce, foster parents, the advocacy community, and mentors for their dedication and accomplishments and the positive impact they have on the lives of children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2021 as National Foster Care Month;

(2) recognizes National Foster Care Month as an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges that children face in the foster care system;

(3) encourages Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of children in the foster care system;

(4) acknowledges the unique needs of children in the foster care system;

(5) recognizes foster youth throughout the United States for their ongoing tenacity, courage, and resilience while facing life challenges;

(6) acknowledges the exceptional alumni of the foster care system who serve as advocates and role models for youth who remain in foster care;

(7) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to children in the foster care system;

(8) supports the designation of May 31, 2021, as National Foster Parent Appreciation Day;

(9) recognizes National Foster Parent Appreciation Day as an opportunity—

(A) to recognize the efforts of foster parents to provide safe and loving care for children in need; and

(B) to raise awareness about the increasing need for foster parents to serve in their communities; and

(10) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all children in the foster care system through parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and other programs designed—

(A) to support vulnerable families;

(B) to invest in prevention and reunification services;

(C) to promote adoption in cases where reunification is not in the best interests of the child;

(D) to adequately serve children brought into the foster care system; and

(E) to facilitate the successful transition into adulthood for children that “age out” of the foster care system.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1493. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a crit-

ical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1494. Mr. SASSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1495. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1496. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 117, expressing support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, or the Belfast Agreement, and subsequent agreements and arrangements for implementation to support peace on the island of Ireland.

SA 1497. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 117, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1493. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 3250 and insert the following:

SEC. 3250. ADDRESSING CHINA'S SOVEREIGN LENDING PRACTICES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) since 2005, the Government of the People's Republic of China has expanded sovereign lending to governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, including governments with a history of corruption and mismanagement, with loans that are repaid or collateralized with natural resources or commodities;

(2) several countries in Latin American and the Caribbean that have received a significant amount of sovereign lending from the Government of the People's Republic of China face challenges in repaying such loans;

(3) the Government of the People's Republic of China's predatory economic practices and sovereign lending practices in Latin America and the Caribbean negatively influence United States national interests in the Western Hemisphere;

(4) the Inter-American Development Bank, the premier multilateral development bank dedicated to the Western Hemisphere, can play a significant role supporting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in achieving sustainable and serviceable debt structures; and

(5) a tenth general capital increase for the Inter-American Development Bank could enhance the Bank's ability to help the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean achieve sustainable and serviceable debt structures.

(b) SUPPORT FOR A GENERAL CAPITAL INCREASE.—The President should consider supporting a tenth general capital increase for the Inter-American Development Bank if countries holding a majority of the shares in the Bank publicly endorse such a capital increase.